

People
Serving
People



Hawaii Restaurant Association

1451 South King St., Suite 503
Honolulu, HI 96814
www.RestaurantHI.com

Phone: 808.944.9105
Fax (Toll Free): 877.494.3245
hra@RestaurantHI.com

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February 29, 2012

Bill 10 (2012)

Relating to the Use of Plastic Bags

Hearing: February 29, 2012, 2:00PM, Committee Meeting Room

This testimony is provided on behalf of the more than 800 members of the Hawaii Restaurant Association.

We understand the impetus of Bill 10 and support the goals enumerated in Section 9-__4 (b): Reduction in the use of plastic bags, reduction of plastic bags in the landfill, reduction in litter and other negative effects on the environment of the city.

However, we request that the Bill be revised to accommodate those businesses that do not have a viable alternative; in this instance the restaurants in the City and County of Honolulu.

Specifically, restaurants in Honolulu rely on the security and safety provided by plastic bags that is not available with paper bags. The multi-cultural mix of our island cuisine includes many varieties of liquids (sauces, gravies, toppings, etc.) that simply cannot provide the protection provided with the use of such bags. Liquids that would leak from paper bags would present serious safety issues.

As such, it is our request that certain businesses be exempted from Bill 10. Those businesses include those that package loose items such as fruits and vegetables, stores that wrap frozen foods, meats or fish, retail outlets that sell flowers or potted plants, bakeries that use plastic bags fresh baked goods and restaurants that use them to transport fresh, hot food. These companies have a demonstrated need to continue using plastic bags.

Respectfully submitted,

Roger Morey

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